

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • October 2009

Two-Day Symposium on Kapuściński and His Legacy

EVENT PREVIEW: OCTOBER 6-7

by Sonya K. Fry

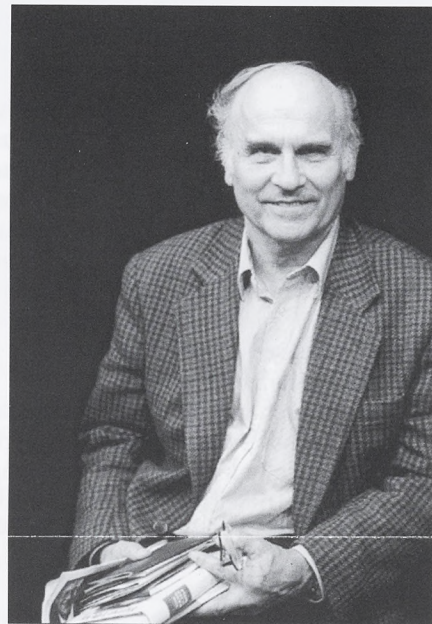
Ryszard Kapuściński, who died in 2007, was one of the most celebrated and controversial journalists of the last fifty years. He found his calling covering Africa. In his early years he developed the technique of two notebooks: one allowed him to earn his living with the bread and butter of agency reporting of facts, while the other was filled with the experiences, sights and smells of Africa. This second notebook developed into his famous books *The Emperor* (1978) which chronicled the fall of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, *Another Day of Life* (1976) a unique and closely observed account of the collapse of Portuguese colonialism in Angola, and *Shah of Shahs* (1982) on the last days of Shah Pahlavi of Iran. To what extent is that kind of reporting he engaged in even possible today? What lessons can the next generation of writers draw from his example?

The OPC is offering its members a chance to take part in this important event which is being sponsored by the Polish Cultural Institute in New York, National Book Critics Circle, New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU, Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, in association with the OPC and Words Without Borders. The two day symposium offers an exciting public conversation about the

state of the art of reportage amid a rapidly changing media landscape and various approaches to long-form and literary journalism as practiced by Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuściński. At a time when categorical differences between fiction and nonfiction are increasingly ambiguous, and the gap between their respective segments of the publishing market increasingly small, a discussion of reportage as a literary art form is paramount.

Two OPC Board members are involved with the project. Secretary **Jane Ciabattari**, a symposium organizer, is President of the National Book Critics Circle and OPC Secretary. Her reporting from abroad and cultural criticism have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* online, *npr.org*, *Bookforum*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*

(Continued on Page 11)



Ryszard Kapuściński

History Mixes With Vodka at Book Night

EVENT RECAP: SEPTEMBER 14

by Charles Hack

Guests were treated to flavored vodka and a reading and discussion of Linda Himelstein's book, *The King of Vodka: The Story of Pyotr Smirnov and the Upheaval of an Empire*, at the Overseas Press Club's Book Night on Monday September 14.

The OPC laid on — courtesy of brand owners Diageo — a spread of Smirnoff vodkas that the manufacturers claim to be true to the recipe that founder Pyotr Smirnov used in Russia in the second half of the 19th century, along with a variety of fruit infused flavored vodkas, such as orange, blueberry and watermelon.

At the event, the author of *The King of Vodka* [Harper Collins, 2009] described how she uncovered Smirnoff's rise from

obscurity in 19th Century Russia to dominate the world of vodka production despite revolution and social upheaval in a tale of unbending ambition, business acumen, and above all brilliant marketing.

Smirnov, born to semi-literate Russian serfs in 1831, founded his vodka distillery in Moscow in the 1860s. When Smirnov began selling his vodka he had no idea how packaging and branding could distinguish it from the ruck of vodkas being produced at the time. Smirnov gathered 15 men together, paid them three rubles apiece and sent them to go from bar to bar to create a fuss wherever they did not sell his brand and demand they stock Smirnov's vodka. Soon his vodka was sold all over Moscow and not long after he became one of the top vodka producers in Russia. "He really understood the

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside...

Opinion: American Media and Japan ...	3
People	4-8
New Members	7
People: Remembered	8-10
Walter Cronkite Memorial	11
New Books	12

Vodka Recap: (Continued From Page 1)

power of the word of mouth," Himelstein said. "You can imagine him now in the era of Facebook, e-mail and Twitter."

Smirnov, as one of the country's most prominent vodka producers, became a lightning rod for the growing temperance movement that grew in response to rampant alcoholism and other vices that seemed to be rotting Russian society. Finally Smirnov's reign ended as the dominant vodka producer when the government took control of vodka production to try and tackle corruption and the lack of consistent — and sometimes lethal — alcohol quality.

Himelstein read from a passage that creates a vivid picture of a grandiose funeral for Smirnov through newspaper reports of the day in which politicians, workers and nobility crammed into the Moscow square on a frigid December day in 1898, which showed the status that a vodka magnate had achieved from his humble childhood as a serf. It also illustrates four years of painstaking research by Himelstein and her translator and research assistant Tatiana Glezer where they dug up records that managed to survive the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 and the chaos that followed in the five year civil war.

Himelstein worked at the Washington bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*, *The San Francisco Recorder*, *Legal Times* and as legal affairs editor at *BusinessWeek* where she first came in contact with the Smirnov Family.

Her research was also made more challenging by a distrust amongst Smirnov's descendants to open up to an American journalist because of a legal struggle with Diageo over rights to the family name. Himelstein first became aware of that struggle when she covered for *BusinessWeek* in 1996 a lawsuit filed by Smirnov's descendant's who wanted to return the trademarks and copyrights of the vodka empire.

"No matter how hard I tried I couldn't convince them that Diageo had not hired me to write the book," Himelstein said.

Smirnov's third of five sons Vladimir Smirnov, continued vodka production after his death until the revolution in 1919, when he was arrested as a capitalist and eventually liberated after



Sonya K. Fry

Linda Himelstein, author of "The King of Vodka" the story of Pyotr Smirnov, poses before the Smirnoff vodka display.

facing a firing squad for the fifth time. He fled to Constantinople in Turkey, went to eastern Europe and finally France where he produced vodka under the modern brand name "Smirnoff No. 21," just before the drink came to the United States in 1925.

Vladimir Smirnov sold to a Russian emigre, Rudolph Kunett, the right to produce Smirnoff vodka. Kunett opened the first U.S. Smirnoff factory in March 1934 in Bethel, Connecticut, but failed to make a go of it and sold the rights to John Martin, President of Heublein, who struggled with America's taste for whiskey and beer. Martin's fortunes changed as America developed a taste for cocktails. In a variant of Smirnov's successful first promotional campaign, Martin developed a mixed drink of lime, ginger beer and Smirnoff vodka, at the Cock n' Bull on Sunset Boulevard calling it the Moscow Mule and snapping a picture. Martin created a fad for the drink by distributing the photo to bar owners. Later Smirnoff became the favored drink of James Bond.

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American Media Goes Crazy Over Japan, Again

OPINION

by William J. Holstein

Japanese politicians are not really in control of their country and serve more as a source of amusement for the powerful bureaucrats and industrialists who really run it. But the American media wants to believe that dramatic change is possible in Japan. So every so often, they whip up incredible expectations regarding an election. The victory of the Democratic Party of Japan in elections in late August is the latest example.

The Wall Street Journal headline proclaimed, “Rise of New Era in Japan.” It said: “The historic change in government could usher in a new era for Japanese politics that replaces the staid consensus that guided Japan in its postwar boom years with a more fractious, competitive environment.”

The New York Times headline similarly heralded, “With Bold Stand, Japan Opposition Wins a Landslide.” The article explained: “Many Japanese saw the vote as the final blow to the island nation’s postwar order, which has been slowly unraveling since the economy collapsed in the early 1990s.” This is wildly inaccurate — Japan’s economy has not “collapsed.” It is still the world’s second largest economy and it is far more sophisticated than China’s. Here are the realities:

■ **This may not be a new era at all.** The Democratic Party doesn't have the clout to really govern and force its will on the ministries. I predict they will have a short-lived stay in office.

■ **The “staid consensus” isn’t going away.** The same people who have guided Japan’s economic emergence on the world stage for the past few decades are still in charge.

■ **The postwar order is not “unraveling.”** Japan is one of the world’s most controlled societies. It is not going to lurch over the edge of radicalism.

In fact, within a matter of days after the wild headlines, we discovered that the real architect of the Democratic Party's election victory was none other than Ichiro Ozawa, 67, one of the godfathers of old-style Japanese politics.

This is vintage Japanese politics — a former prime minister acts in the role of kingmaker to put a new face in the hot seat, in this case Yukio Hatoyama. The kingmaker continues to exert influence and ultimate power behind the scenes. “In effect, this is going to be an Ozawa administration,” a political analyst told the *Journal*. “Mr. Hatoyama and other leaders will be obliged to listen to what he wants.” The Japanese media have nicknamed the new crop of DPJ leaders “Ozawa children.”

So within two weeks after the election, the Japanese media was already tearing down Hatoyama because he gave a top party position to Ozawa. Even before he officially takes office, its clear his days are numbered.

This is another classic case in which editors in New York and Washington wanted to believe that an election in Japan represented real change. They were projecting their values onto a country that has a very different system. Correspondents based in Japan had to go with the flow, so to speak, accepting the direction that their editors demanded. But now correspondents are getting their version of the story out, and it is far less transformational than editors back home wanted to believe.

I've been watching this pattern since covering an election in Japan in August 1989 when the Socialist Party won a majority of



Yukio Hatoyama, the Democratic Party leader, placed a flower next to the name of a winning candidate. "This has been a revolutionary election," he told reporters. "The people have shown the courage to take politics into their own hands."

seats in the Upper House of Parliament. Editors back home leapt to the conclusion that radical change had occurred. On the ground, it was clear that the Socialists would not have staying power and would certainly not be able to challenge the status quo. In fact, the Socialists were soon thrown out.

The American media's coverage of this latest election shows that it has not really learned anything about Japanese politics in the 20 years I've been following them. Shouldn't the people who control the coverage of a country have some basic knowledge about that country? Pity the poor American newspaper reader who is told that the post-war order in Japan is unraveling, only to find out within weeks that nothing has really changed.

As People columnist **Al Kaff** writes: Back in the 1950s, when the UP bureau sent out a dispatch on an upcoming election, New York invariably sent back a message: But what are the issues?

Tokyo manager Rud Poats would reply: There are no issues.

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GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

OPC WINNERS:

Bill Holstein, president of the OPC

Foundation: "Our scholarship winners are taking over the world."

Haley Sweetland Edwards, who won this year's Irene Kuhn Scholarship and graduated this spring from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism School, moved to Yemen in September. In an e-mail to the OPC before her departure, Edwards wrote, "I'll be traveling with the support of the Overseas Press Club Fellowship and the Maggie and Gordon Gray Fellowship for International Reporting, and with the talented reporter/photographer **Paul Stephens**. We'll be living in a beautiful old city called Sana'a, learning Arabic, traveling the region, and maybe doing a little reporting when we can."

Jerry Guo, winner of the 2008 Reuters Scholarship, spent the summer in Tehran as an analyst for a local hedge fund. In an op-ed article in *The New York Times*, Guo wrote how Western sanctions against Iran are not working and "how easy it is to find practically anything from back home" in Tehran shops including "Calvin Klein jeans, Gucci handbags, Dior perfume and Victoria's Secret lingerie."

Maria Repnikova, winner of this year's Kendrick Scholarship and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, spent the summer as a Reuters intern in Beijing. In an e-mail to **Jane Reilly**, Foundation Executive Director, Repnikova wrote, "I have worked on stories ranging from massage weight loss therapy to old people's impressions of 60 years of change in Beijing."

Emily Witt, winner of this year's Flora Lewis Scholarship, now is studying for a master's degree in English literature at Cambridge University.

GLOBAL: **Tom Mitchell** of *The Financial Times* was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong this spring, succeeding **Ernst Herb** of the Swiss financial and business paper *Finanz und Wirtschaft*. Three Hong

Kong-based OPC members were reelected to the board: **Keith Bradsher**, *New York Times* bureau chief, 1st vice president; **Jim Laurie**, the Journalism and Media Studies Center at Hong Kong University and Focus Asia Productions that produces TV shows for BBC World News and California PBS, correspondent governor; and **Thomas Crampton**, New Media, associate governor. Laurie also is an OPC board member.

In Tokyo, **Monzurul Huq**, correspondent for the Bangladesh dailies *Prothom Alo* and *Daily Star*, was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in June, defeating **Tim Kelly** of *Forbes* magazine. Huq, a former BBC World Service staffer in London, succeeds **Catherine Makino** of Inter Press Service.

The Wall Street Journal appointed editors in Asia and the United States in June. **Almar Latour** was named the newspaper's editor-in-chief, Asia. Announcing his appointment, *WSJ* editor **Robert Thomson** said the audience for *The Journal's* Chinese-language site has quadrupled over the past 18 months, and the newspaper will launch a Japanese-language site this autumn. *The Journal* also recently expanded to India. In the other appointment, **Deborah Brewster**, formerly with *The Financial Times*, became the *WSJ's* deputy managing editor. Before joining *The Financial Times* in 1999, she worked for Australian pubs, *The Australian* and *The Age of Australia*.

Two members of *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial board took up new posts this summer. **Bret Stephens** was appointed deputy editorial page editor for the European and Asian editions of *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, a weekly magazine published in Hong Kong and owned by the *WSJ*. He succeeded **Melanie Kirkpatrick**, who retired recently after 29 years with the *Journal*. Stephens continues writing his weekly "Global View" column.

Brian Carney moved to London from New York when he was appointed editorial page editor of *The Wall Street Journal Europe*.

BAGHDAD: TV reporter

Muntadhar al-Zeidi was released from prison September 15 after serving nine months for throwing his shoes at President Bush. Zeidi, 30, told a news conference that he was tortured by Iraqi security forces, beaten with iron bars, whipped with cords and given electric shocks. Not long after his news conference, he fled the country in fear for his life, his family said. Zeidi told reporters he threw his shoes to protest what he called the U.S. occupation of Iraq, an act that made him a hero in the Arab and Muslim worlds, AP reported.



Muntadhar al-Zaidi hugs his sister after his release from prison.

Iraqi journalists are worried. About 100 of them and their supporters demonstrated this summer against what they said are growing attempts to muzzle them by the country's governing Shiite political parties. Marching down Mutanabi Street, the demonstrators shouted "No, no to muzzling!" and "Yes, yes to freedom!" **Sam Dagher**, *New York Times* Baghdad correspondent, wrote, "The government of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki has sought to censor certain publications and books, block Web sites it deems offensive and pass a new media law that would clamp down on journalists in the name of protecting them."

BALTIMORE: AP photographer **Emilio Morenatti**, 40, whose left foot was amputated after he was wounded by a bomb blast in Afghanistan August 11, was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital in Baltimore to be fitted with a prosthesis. "I feel I will be able to be OK," Morenatti, a Spaniard said. Named this year as News Photographer of the Year by Pictures of the Year International, Morenatti has had years of experience in war zones. In 2006,

he was kidnapped in Gaza City and freed unharmed after 15 hours. The following year, he suffered a broken leg from a stun gun fragment while covering a protest in a West Bank village.

BANGKOK: Former journalist **Daranee Charnchoengsilpakul** was sentenced to 18 years in prison August 28 on charges she damaged the "reputation and honor" of the Thai king and queen by saying in a speech last year that they supported a coup. She said she would appeal. "Thailand has long maintained some of the world's strictest laws against insulting royalty," *The New York Times* reported.

BEIJING: China denied visas to American filmmakers **Jon Alpert** and **Matthew O'Neill**, OPC award winners, blocking them from presenting their documentary "China's Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province" at the Beijing Independent Film Festival in September. They traveled in Sichuan last year to film the anger of parents whose children were killed when their schools collapsed during an earthquake. Alpert and O'Neill won the OPC's 2006 Carl Spielvogel Award for their documentary "Baghdad ER."

BEIRUT: **Terry Anderson**, the AP bureau chief who was held hostage in Lebanon for nearly seven years before his release in 1991, was back in that country this summer teaching American students at the University of Beirut about covering the Middle East.



Terry Anderson

BILBAO, Spain: Robert Capa's photo of a falling soldier remains one of the most famous images from the Spanish Civil War and one of the most debated as to its authenticity. In *Shadows of Photography*, a new book by **José Manuel Susperregui**, a communications professor at the Universidad del Pais Vasco, claims the 1936 photo was taken miles from the fighting and was staged. Experts at the International Center of Photography in New York City, where Capa's archive is stored, said they found some of the professor's investigation intriguing and convincing, but they continue to believe that "Falling Soldier" is genuine despite a long string of critics who

claim the photo was staged. An OPC award is named for Capa.



Robert Capa's "Falling Soldier"

CLINTON, New York: **John Needham** retired recently from the *Los Angeles Times*, which he joined in 1983 after many years reporting for UPI from Japan and India. John and his wife **Chris** visited relatives and friends in Clinton this summer when he unexpectedly ran into former Unipresser **Chuck Kershner** on the street. They chatted for an hour. In an e-mail, Chuck quoted John, "UPI were fun years, always interesting, sometimes frustrating. [UPI's late top editor and OPC member] **H. L. Stevenson** tried to send me to India for the same salary I was making on the New York cable desk — \$349 a week — but [former UPI Asia news editor] **Leon Daniel** said I should get a pay raise if I was to be in charge of six Asian countries. H. L. put in for \$350 and that's what it remained at for my three and a half years in New Delhi!"

COAHUILA, Mexico: Unidentified gunmen arrived on motorcycles and fired on the building housing the editorial offices of the daily *Siglo de Torfreón* around 1 a.m. August 19. No one was injured but the building was damaged.

COLOMBO: **Marie Colvin**, an American working as a correspondent for the *Sunday Times* of London, was wounded by shrapnel to her head, chest and arms August 17 when she was caught in a pre-dawn skirmish between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka. Colvin, 44, who was voted Foreign Correspondent of the Year by the British Press Awards in July, underwent eye surgery in Colombo for her wounds. Sri Lanka authorities said she was traveling in rebel territory without the government's permission and that her visa had expired April 10.

Colombo High Court sentenced journalist **J. S. Tissanayagam** to 20 years in prison August 31 on charges of inciting communal disharmony. On the same day, Global Media Forum and the U.S. branch of Reporters Without Borders announced that Tissanayagam had won the first Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism. Tissanayagam ran the *North Eastern Monthly* magazine and was a columnist for the *Sunday Times* of London in Colombo. Charges against him were based on articles that he wrote criticizing the government's May offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels and for taking money from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who until their defeat early this year were campaigning for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka.

GUATEMALA CITY: Unknown assailants planted five gallons of gasoline outside the home of TV journalist **Félix Waldemar Maaz Boi** August 18 and tried to ignite the fuel with home-made bombs. The broadcaster was not injured and the house not significantly damaged. Maaz Boi, a presenter on cable channel 17's Video Prensa, said he believes the attack was linked to a recent Video Prensa report on alleged involvement of a police unit in extortion activities.

HONG KONG: Star Group, **Rupert Murdoch's** Asian TV network, is eliminating 150 to 200 jobs from its headquarters staff of 550 in Hong Kong to focus on its lucrative business in India, spokeswoman **Janne Poon** said this summer. **Paul Aiello**, Star's chief executive resigned. **Uday Shanker**, Star's chief executive in India, now reports directly to **James Murdoch**, chief executive for Europe and Asia for his father's News Corporation. Star's India market now accounts for more than 70 percent of the company's revenue while the network is struggling in China, Reuters reported.

KABUL: A predawn raid by British commandos and Afghan soldiers freed *New York Times* correspondent **Stephen Farrell** September 9 after four days of captivity by the Taliban. But his Afghan interpreter **Sultan Munadi**, a British sol-

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

dier, dozens of Taliban fighters and an Afghan woman were killed in the shooting. Farrell, 46, and Munadi, 34, were captured in northern Afghanistan while they were covering the aftermath of a NATO air strike that exploded two fuel tankers hijacked by Taliban insurgents and killed up to 90 Afghans. Munadi was fatally shot in a hail of bullets while trying to lead Farrell to safety shouting "journalist, journalist." The married father of two boys, Munadi was on holiday from his studies in Germany for a master's degree in public policy when he agreed to accompany Farrell. Farrell, a citizen of Britain and Ireland, joined *The Times* in Baghdad in 2007 after years reporting in the Middle East and South Asia.

A few days before the kidnapping, two AP journalists, photographer **Emilio Morenatti** and videographer **Andi Jatmiko**, were wounded when a bomb hit their vehicle while traveling with U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan.



Stephen Farrell (left) and Sultan Munadi interview a wounded man the day before they were taken hostage.

◆

Parwiz Kambakhsh has been pardoned and released from prison after serving nearly two years of his 20-year sentence on conviction of blasphemy, Reporters Without Borders reported September 7.

While a journalism student at Balkh University and a local newspaper writer, Kambakhsh, then 23, was arrested for asking questions in class about women's rights under Islamic law and distributing an Internet article that asked why Islam does not give equal rights to women. He originally was sentenced to death. The Reporters group said Kambakhsh has fled Afghanistan out of fear that he will be the target of reprisal attacks.

KHARTOUM: For wearing slacks in public, Sudanese journalist **Lubna Hussein** was convicted of public indecency September 7 and fined 500 Sudanese pounds (U.S.\$209) or a month in jail. She was spared a flogging of 40 lashes for contesting the charges. Hussein, 34, a widow, said she would accept a month in prison rather than "pay a penny" of the fine, but she was released after only one day in jail. *The New York Times* said a Sudanese journalist organization may have paid her fine. Before the trial,



Lubna Hussein in the offending outfit.

Hussein resigned her job in the U.N.'s public information office in Sudan because it gave her immunity. Police arrested her along with a dozen other women in a public café. Ten of the women pleaded guilty and received 10 lashes and fined 250 Sudanese pounds.

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan: CBS News correspondent **Cami McCormick** was wounded August 28 when a roadside bomb hit the U.S. Army vehicle in which she was traveling south of Kabul.

Murders of Journalists Continue Globally

French-Spanish filmmaker **Christian Poveda**, 54, who chronicled the lives of Salvadoran gang members in a documentary, was fatally shot September 2 when he was returning from filming in La Campanera, a poor suburb of El Salvador's capital. La Campanera is a stronghold of the Mara 18 gang, the subject of his documentary "La Vida Loca" that has been shown in Europe and Mexico. Several years ago, **Francoise (Fifi) Demulder** a celebrated French photographer who had covered wars around the world including Vietnam and Cambodia, became paralyzed while undergoing cancer treatment. Poveda organized a photo auction in Paris to help cover her hospital expenses. About \$247,000 was raised in the sale of prints, most of them of war, donated by her friends in the Paris photo world. Fifi, the first woman to win the World Press Photo Award, died last year in a Paris suburb of a heart attack and cancer at age 61.

Janullah Hashimzada, 37, an Afghan journalist known for his critical reporting on the Taliban, was fatally gunned down August 24 in Pakistan's Khyber Pass. He was traveling in a minibus when the vehicle was intercepted by masked assailants in a Toyota Corolla. They forced the minibus to stop and fired on Hashimzada at least six times with assault rifles. He was the Peshawar, Pakistan bureau chief for Afghanistan's Shamsad Television. He also reported for the newspapers *Vahdat* and *Sahar*, the Afghan independent new agency Pajhwok and AP. Another Shamsad employee was seriously wounded in the attack.

Bruno Koko Chirambiza, 24, a reporter for Radio Star in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, was stabbed to death twice in the chest by eight unknown assailants August 22 while he was on his way home from a wedding. A friend with him was not attacked. Voice of America reported that authorities suspect he was killed by insurgents. **Pierre Pay-Pay**, the station's owner and an opposition politician, said he doubted that theory.

Novruzali Mammadov, 68, former editor-in-chief of *Tolishi Sado* in Azerbaijan, died of natural causes August 17 in prison where he was serving a 10-year jail sentence handed down last year. He was found guilty by an Azeri court of high treason and inciting national, racial and religious hatred by allegedly spying for Iran and supporting "administrative autonomy in the territories of Azerbaijan populated by the Talysh people." The Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights said Mammadov was tortured during interrogation.

Sadiq Bacha Khan, correspondent for Aaj TV, was fatally shot August 14 when he was on his way to work in Mardan, a town in Pakistan's restive Northwest Frontier Province. Kahn arrived at his office around 7:20 a.m. and was ambushed outside the building and fatally shot at least 15 times. He was a former president of the Mardan Press Club.

Russian journalist **Abdulmalik Akhmedilov**, deputy editor of the daily *Hakikat* and chief editor of the political monthly *Sograti*, was fatally shot August 11 in his car on the outskirts of Makhachkala, capital of Russia's Dagestan Province. He left home in his car shortly after noon on an errand and was shot by a gunman in another car. In his columns, Akhmedilov criticized federal forces and local law authorities for suppressing religious and political dissent.

The explosion killed one of the soldiers she was riding with. McCormick, 47, underwent surgery in a field hospital for a leg wound. She was flown to Germany and then to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. After reporting for CNN in the Middle East, Cami joined CBS Radio News 11 years ago, making frequent reporting trips to Afghanistan and Iraq.



Cami McCormick

LONDON: OPC member **David Schlesinger**, Reuters editor-in-chief, called the U.S. military's detention in Iraq of **Ibrahim Jassam**, a freelance Reuters photojournalist, unacceptable. Jassam was arrested last year in September by U.S. and Iraqi forces and has been held without charges. "In a year of trying to get specifics, we've heard only vague and undefined accusations — to me this is unacceptable," Schlesinger said. Last November, the Iraqi Central Criminal Court found no evidence against Jassam and ordered his release. But the U.S. military said he represented a "high security risk" but provided no details.

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Heather M. Lacy International Journalism Program University College Falmouth, UK Student	David L. Stern Stringer, Global Post, IHT, The NY Times Kiev, Ukraine Active Overseas
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Jim Lehrer
Executive Editor
and Anchor
The NewsHour
With Jim Lehrer
Honorary Non-
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Among the **Ted Kennedy** obituaries, the *Telegraph* was one of the few newspapers to report that he once worked as a wire service reporter. The *Telegraph* wrote: "After graduating [from Harvard] in 1955 with a degree in history and government, Kennedy continued his studies at the International Law Institute at The Hague, worked as a reporter for the International News Service, and finally, in 1959, achieved an LL.B from the University of Virginia Law School." Ted's brother, former President **John Kennedy**, also worked for INS shortly after U.S. Navy service during World War II as did brother **Robert Kennedy**. John reported the founding of the U.N. and Winston Churchill's fall from power.

Burton Hersh, author of books on Ted and Bobby Kennedy, told this column that Ted probably had a summer job with the wire service during college. Joseph Kennedy, father of the Kennedy brothers, was a friend of **William Randolph Hearst**, owner of INS.

LUSAKA, Zambia: **Fred M'membe**, editor-in-chief of the Zambian newspaper *The Post*, and **Muna Ndulo**, a law school professor at Cornell University, have been cited for contempt over an article that Ndulo wrote. The article branded as a "comedy of errors" an obscenity case against *Post* editor **Chansa Kabwela** after she sent photos of a woman giving birth in a street to Zambia's vice president, health minister and other officials.

McLEAN, Virginia: **Jayson Blair**, who resigned from *The New York Times* in 2003 after he was exposed for plagiarism and fabrications, now is working as a certified life coach in the Ashburn Psychological Services. "They know I've been in their shoes," Blair was quoted by the AP, referring to his mental health patients. "I like the idea that I can help people avoid some of the mistakes I made." Ashburn director Michael Oberschneider, the psychologist who hired Blair after seeing him lead a support group said, "Very few people can go through what he did and come back. He really is a success story."

MIAMI: Based on a 220-year-old law, a U.S. federal judge in September ordered the Cuban Communist Party and govern-

ment to pay \$27.5 million to the mother of **Omar Rodriguez Saludes**, director of the independent news agency Nueva Prensa Cubana in Havana, who was sentenced to 27 years in prison in 2003. He was arrested in that year's crackdown on Cuba's political dissidents and independent journalists and received the longest sentence of any of the 29 journalists arrested. Holding that Rodriguez's "treatment and conditions of confinement qualify as torture," Judge Alan Gold awarded the compensation to the mother, a U.S. resident, for emotional distress. The journalist's uncle predicted they would be successful in collecting the compensation from U.S.-based individuals and companies that owe money to Cuba.

MOSCOW: **Mikhail Afanasyev**, editor of the online journal *Novy Focus*, was charged with slander after he filed reports that Russian officials were not doing enough to find possible survivors of an August 17 explosion in a hydro-electric plant in southwestern Siberia. On September 9 several days after the charges were filed, Afanasyev was walking near this his home when two unidentified men jumped him and beat him to unconsciousness. At least 74 employees were killed in the explosion. Afanasyev reported that relatives claimed survivors could be heard banging on the walls of the flooded chamber, but that authorities were not doing enough to save them.

NEW YORK: Sometimes when a big story broke overseas, **Diane Sawyer** would parachute in from her New York base. She covered the attempted coup against Boris Yeltsen in Moscow, reported from Egypt and Jordan during the Gulf War, famine in North Korea and the plight of women in Afghanistan under the Taliban. Sawyer, 63, co-host of ABC's "Good Morning America," will replace **Charles Gibson**, 66, as anchor of ABC's "World News" when he retires in January.

SALINA CRUZ, Mexico: In the early hours of August 30, unknown assailants fired large caliber guns on the home of **Guillermo Soto Bejarano**, editor and columnist of the weekly *Nuevo Milenio*. No one was injured. Reporters Without Borders said investigators should assume the shooting was linked to

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

Bejarano's journalistic activities, noting six bombings or shooting this year on Mexican news media offices or homes. Fifty journalists have been killed in Mexico since 2000 making it the most dangerous country for media in the Western Hemisphere.

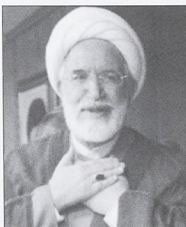
SEOUL: Laura Ling and Euna Lee, the American TV reporters who were held captive in North Korea for five months before their release in August, are being criticized in South Korea for endangering people in China who were helping refugees escape from North Korea.

New York Times Seoul reporter Choe Sang-hun wrote, "The accusations stem from a central fear repeated in newspapers and blogs here: that the notes and videotapes the journalists gathered in China before their ill-fated venture to the border fell into the hands of the authorities, potentially compromising the identities of refugees and activists dedicated to spiriting people out of the North." Missionaries and other activists have moved about 20,000 North Korean refugees through China. Most of them went on to South Korea.

Meanwhile, Ling and Lee posted a report on the Web site of their employer, San Francisco-based Current TV, saying they crossed the border into North Korea but returned to China within a minute. But then North Korean border guards "violently dragged us back across the ice to North Korea and marched us to a nearby army base." The journalists were at the border to report on North Korean women who were forced into sex trade or arranged marriages after defecting to China.

TEHRAN: Iran authorities shut down the newspaper *Etemad-e- Melli*, published by reformist cleric Mehdi Karroubi, August 16 after the paper published claims that protesters arrested following the June elections were raped in prison.

A prosecutor denied the paper had been banned but failed to publish because of printing problems. But the state-run Press TV reported that an investigating judge ordered the paper closed for "publishing unlawful and criminal material."



Mehdi Karroubi

TBILISI, Georgia: Shalva Ramishvili, former reporter and part owner of TV broadcaster 202, was released from prison August 16 after serving his full four-year sentence for alleged blackmail. Anchor of a political talk show when he was arrested in 2005, Ramishvili was found guilty of attempting to extort U.S.\$100,000 from then ruling party deputy Koba Bekauri. The general director of 202, David Kokhleidze, was imprisoned on similar charges but released on pardon after serving two years. Ramishvili claimed he was innocent and refused to apply for a pardon that would have involved an admission of guilt.

WASHINGTON: In a letter to AP President and OPC member Tom Curley, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates called "appalling" the wire service's distribution of a grisly photo of a U.S. Marine mortally wounded in Afghanistan. The photo showed Lance Corporal Joshua M. Bernard, 21, being tended by his comrades on August 14 after he was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade that blew off one of his legs and mangled the other. Bernard died with a blood clot lodged in his heart during emergency surgery in a field hospital.

After failing in a telephone call to persuade Curley to stop distribution of the photo that the family objected to, Gates wrote to Curley, "Your lack of compassion and common sense in choosing to put this image of their maimed and stricken child on the front pages of multiple American newspapers is appalling [and an] unconscionable departure from the restraint that most journalists and publications have shown covering the military since Sept. 11." AP sent a reporter to discuss the picture with the Marine's family before it was distributed, and his father asked that the photo not be published. But AP decided otherwise "to make public an image that conveys the grimness of war and the sacrifice of young men and women fighting it." Several newspapers published the picture.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Jeanne Toomey, 88, a newspaper pioneer and an OPC member since 1953, died September 17 in her daughter's home at Falmouth, Maine after a brief illness. She started her newspaper career with the *Brooklyn Eagle* in 1943, and she was the paper's first woman to cover crime. Jeanne also reported from ships arriving in

New York Harbor, where she interviewed Winston Churchill. During 50 years of reporting, she worked for numerous news organizations including the *New York Journal-American*, AP, King Features Syndicate and newspapers in Albany, New York, Nevada and Florida.

She and her fourth husband, the late photographer Jim Gray, ran a newspaper in Calexico on the Mexican-U.S. border. Toomey wrote two books based on her career covering crime, *Murder in the Hamptons* and *Assignment Homicide*. In Connecticut, Jeanne ran The Last Post Sanctuary, a non-profit shelter for more than 300 cats. She was one of the last surviving founders of the New York Press Club.

"When my money ran out to finish law school, I took a job at the *Brooklyn Eagle*, and I never looked back," Jeanne once said. "I loved the excitement of the newsroom, the people and everything about it."



Debbie Tuma

Brian Barron, 69, a veteran BBC foreign correspondent, died September 16 of cancer at his home in Cornwall, England. He covered the 1980 fall of Idi Amin in Uganda, the Vietnam War including the last day when North Vietnam troops entered Saigon, the Falklands War, the Gulf War in 1991 and the Iraq War in 2003 even after his retirement in 2000. Barron joined BBC in 1965.

Bobby Model, 36, a adventure photographer whose assignments took him from the rivers of Burundi to one of the world's largest granite walls in Pakistan, died September 16 in Cody, Wyoming, his hometown, after a brief illness. His work appeared in the *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *The New York Times* and other publications. Model suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2007 when a chunk of concrete smashed through the windshield of his car in Cape Town, South Africa.

French photographer **Willy Ronis**, 99, whose work was published in *Life* magazine, died September 12 in Paris. In 1944, he photographed French prisoners and deportees returning from Nazi captivity. But most of his black-and-white photos depicted Paris street scenes and working class people.



One of Ronis's Parisian images, a boy with a baguette (1952).

While in the U.S. Army during World War II, **Richard Fogel** was stationed in Rome as a correspondent and sports editor of the Mediterranean edition of *Stars and Stripes*. After the war, he resumed his studies at Stanford University, working nights at the *Stanford Daily* and reporting for the *San Francisco News*. In 1948 after working for United Press, Fogel joined the *Oakland Tribune* as a copy editor and advanced to executive editor during 30 years with the paper. In 1978, he co-founded the Bay City News, a regional wire service, working there until he retired three years ago. Fogel, 86, died September 9 in Thousand Oaks, California.

Jerry Brazda, 80, a U.S. Army news writer for Armed Forces Radio Network in Frankfurt, Germany for two years in the 1950s, died August 29 of respiratory failure in Arlington, Virginia. After his military enlistment ended, he worked for UP and UPI in New York, Atlanta where he was Southern Division news manager and Washington where he covered the

Don Hewitt, Architect of Television News, Dies

Don Hewitt, 86, the CBS Newsman who invented "60 Minutes" and produced the popular newsmagazine for 36 years, died August 19 of pancreatic cancer at his Bridgehampton, New York home. His death came a month after that of fellow CBS legend **Walter Cronkite** and only a day after the death of newspaper columnist **Robert Novak**. In one of his last public appearances, Hewitt attended the July 29 private memorial service for Cronkite, for whom he was an early producer.

In 1998, Hewitt received the OPC's President's Award for lifetime achievement presented by then Club President **John Corporan**. The citation read: "From copyboy to war correspondent, to



AP reporter to caption writer, from producer of queens, potentates, popes, premiers and presidents to inventor and driving force of CBS's 60 Minutes — that's Don Hewitt. He and 60 Minutes' superlative team merit the President's Award from the Overseas Press Club for Lifetime Achievement. Under Hewitt's leadership 60 Minute's coverage of vital overseas stories sets the highest standards. Hewitt & Company shake, motivate, move, mold, inspire, and rarely miss an opportunity to turn over rocks at home and abroad. Scelerati Cavetel!" Two of the "60 Minutes" regulars are OPC members, correspondent **Mike Wallace**, Hewitt's first "60 Minutes" hire and now retired, and humorist **Andy Rooney**.

Hewitt started "60 Minutes" in 1968 and produced the newsmagazine until 2004 when CBS persuaded him to retire. In a 2001 memoir he wrote that the formula for "60 Minutes" was simple, "It's reduced to four words every kid in the world knows: Tell me a story." In addition to the OPC award, his Sunday evening newsmagazine won 73 Emmys, 13 Dupont/Columbia University Awards and nine Peabody Awards. Hewitt once estimated that "60 Minutes" earned CBS "maybe \$2 billion."

Born in 1922, Hewitt dropped out of New York University after one year to become a copy boy at the *New York Herald Tribune* at \$15 a week.

During World War II, he served in the Merchant Marines as a war correspondent filing to *Stars & Stripes*, the U.S. military daily, in London. After the war, he returned to the *Herald Tribune* and joined AP. In 1948, Hewitt was working in New York City as night telephoto editor for Acme Newspictures, the photo arm of United Press, when a friend who worked for CBS Radio told him he'd heard about an opening for someone with picture experience at CBS' fledgling TV network. CBS News hired Hewitt as an associate director that year when he didn't even own a TV set.

Hewitt helped shape the early broadcast pioneers like **Edward R. Murrow**, **Douglas Edwards** and **Walter Cronkite**, and he directed the first U.S. presidential debate to be broadcast on television, John Kennedy vs. Richard Nixon in 1960. Hewitt's third wife, **Marilyn Berger**, who survives, was a correspondent for *The Washington Post* and NBC News and later an obituary writer at *The New York Times*.

Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1964, Brazda joined McGraw-Hill where he set up health policy newsletters, later established his own health care newsletters and wrote the book *Unhealthy Politics* about failed efforts to establish a national health care plan.

Robert Novak was a Washington-based conservative political columnist, but

he traveled far and wide as a reporter. In 1978, he interviewed Chinese leader Deng Xiao-ping in China. Deng's conciliatory message to the United States in that interview helped pave the way for Washington's resumption of diplomatic relations with Beijing the following year. Novak flew to Vietnam to report from that war. "We'd rag him about his specialized view of Vietnam, but he took it in good

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

humor," reported **Tracy Wood**, who saw him in Saigon's UPI bureau that transmitted his columns to Washington. "And he did get out and actually report his side of things for his columns, not just sit in Washington and type. I never agreed with much that he wrote, but I liked him." When he was publisher-president of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, **Bob Page** held a cocktail party in Washington's Willard Hotel for Novak and his reporting partner

Roland Evans

to mark the 25th anniversary of their column.

"Every slug who was anybody in Washington came," said Page, a former UPI executive.

"The *Sun-Times* was their host newspaper. One of the great things about Bob was that he never forgot his reporter's roots."

After serving stateside as a U.S. Army lieutenant during the Korean War, Novak joined AP as a \$68-a-week reporter, working in Omaha, Indianapolis and Washington. He moved to the Washington bureau of *The Wall Street Journal* in 1958 as a political reporter. Later he and Evans started writing their syndicated column that at one time was published in 300 newspapers. Novak continued the column alone after Evans retired in 1993 and later died. For years Novak was a regular on CNN talk shows including "The Capital Gang," "Crossfire" and "Evans, Novak, Hunt and Shields." Novak stirred up controversy in 2003 when he identified in his column Valerie Wilson, wife of a former U.S. diplomat, as a CIA agent.

Robert David Sanders Novak was born in a Republican home in Joliet, Illinois, the son of a chemical engineer who ran the local gas company. Novak died August 18 of a malignant brain tumor at his home in Washington at age 78.

◆

Michael Fowler, 67, who worked on newspapers from Alaska to Florida before teaching journalism on three continents, died August 18 from complications following gastro-intestinal reflux surgery. He became sick while spending

the summer with his family at their home in North Sandwich, New Hampshire. After newspaper work in the United States, Fowler earned a law degree, starting law studies at age 39. He spent a year as a prosecutor in Janet Reno's Florida state attorney's office before teaching journalism at the American Universities in Bulgaria and Egypt, serving as an associate dean at the Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media in Bangalore and helping start a journalism program at the Royal University in Phnom Penh. While working for UPI in Miami, Fowler met **Susan Postlewaite**, his rival at AP. They were married in 1984, and she survives. Before his death, the couple and their daughter Kim, 8, whom they adopted in Cambodia, planned to return to Cambodia.

◆

Kenneth Bacon, 64, president of Refugees International and a former *Wall Street Journal* staff member, died August 15 of melanoma at his summer home on Block Island, Rhode Island. He lived in Washington, D.C. When he was an assistant secretary of defense in President Clinton's administration, Bacon was a Defense Department spokesman during NATO's campaign to end the 1999 violence in Kosovo. After visiting a refugee camps in the Balkans, he told *The New York Times* in a 2001 interview, "I had never seen refugees before, never fully appreciated the sheer magnitude of one million people leaving their homes and needing food, shelter and medical care and then one million going back home after the war."

In a statement, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wrote, "From Central Africa to South Asia to the Americas, Ken shone the spotlight on the causes of humanitarian suffering, and served as an impassioned yet reasoned advocate for the principles of humanitarian protection and assistance."

Before joining the Defense Department in 1994 and becoming president of Refugees International in 2001, Bacon spent 25 years as a reporter, columnist and editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, covering the Pentagon and banking, finance and regulations.

Just weeks before his death, Ken and his wife, Darcy Wheeler, donated funds to establish a center for the study of popula-

tion displacement by climate change.

◆

The London Press Club reported recent deaths of British newsmen. **Bert Hardy**, 80, who died March 10, was **Rupert Murdoch's** principal British lieutenant, serving in the 1970s as advertising director, marketing director and chief executive of News International. Earlier he worked for the *Daily Herald*.

Robert Warren, 73, a former *News of the World* executive, died

of pancreatic cancer January 6. He worked on the *News of the World* for 45 years, starting as a reporter in 1964, becoming news editor in 1974 and executive editor in 1997. Among the stories

he covered were the race riots in the U.S. South. After retiring from the staff in 2000, Warren was retained as the paper's ombudsman.

British-born **Clive Barnes** was a theater, opera, music and dance critic in London for the *Daily Express*, *The Spectator* and *The Times* before moving to New York, where he continued critical writing for *The New York Times* and the *New York Post* until his death last November 19 at age 81.

In World War II, **Edmund Townshend**, a *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, was shot down during the Battle of Arnhem in the Netherlands. He spent four days behind German lines before escaping with a group of airmen. His expense account included "replacement of splinter-proof spectacles swept away by an involuntary parachute exit" and "rewards to Dutch underground workers for protection from enemy search parties." The paper paid those expenses. Townshend covered the 1944 D-Day landing from a troopship, the assault on Walcheren Island near Antwerp five months later, hauling wounded survivors out of the sea, was posted to the Far East and after the war reported from Algeria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Switzerland and the Suez Canal Zone. He died November 16, 2008 at age 96.

Editor's note: **Robert Spiers Benjamin**, the last survivor among the 13 correspondents who founded the OPC, died in September. His obituary will be published in the November *Bulletin*.

Cronkite Memorial Draws Presidents and Media Luminaries

by Sonya K. Fry

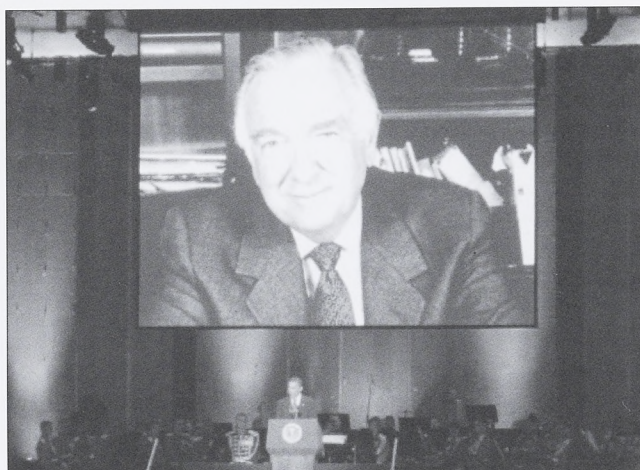
It was a fitting tribute to Walter Cronkite: Two Presidents, Clinton and Obama; all the major anchors (past and present); the U.S. Marine Band, Jimmy Buffett, CBS Executives in abundance, Nick Clooney, Mickey Hart, drummer of the Grateful Dead and Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Sextet who marched around Avery Fisher Hall in a New Orleans style jazz funeral — it was just fabulous.

William Jefferson Clinton spoke of Cronkite the man “a profoundly good man and that is the way it was.” He was eternally grateful to Walter and Betsy for inviting him, Hillary and Chelsea to go sailing off Martha's Vineyard the summer of his scandals. Clinton also paid tribute to President Obama who came to New York to speak at the memorial on the day of his important address to Congress on healthcare.

There were many, many Uncle Walter stories and I will share just a few. This one is a re-telling of a Cronkite story. Walter was dancing with his Mother at her 100th birthday party. When the music stopped Mrs. Cronkite asked her son to get her medicine. Walter dutifully produced the prescription drug and it was rejected. “By saying get me my medicine I meant a martini.” We can now see where Walter got his sense of humor.

When Walter was asked about the new title he was given as “The Most Trusted Man in America” he said, “apparently they didn’t talk to my wife.”

On a serious note Tom Brokaw captured the moment when he said “Walter Cronkite was also our dad. He was the godfather who showed us the way to be good journalists.” The newsman Nick Clooney said that Walter was only interested in the content of news, the truthfulness, checking the facts and not concerned about the delivery systems. That steadfastness has been lost, in my opinion, in the search for newer, better, faster ways to deliver tidbits of news (often gossip). We have been caught up in the



President Barack Obama speaks at the memorial.

Sonya K. Fry

delivery systems and have ignored the content.

President Obama, who never knew Cronkite personally the way all the other speakers did, spoke of reverence for Cronkite and his commitment to finding the truth. “I did not know him any better than the tens of millions who turned to him each night in search of the answer to a simple question — what happened today. ... I have benefited as a citizen from his dogged pursuit of the truth, his passionate defense of objective reporting, and his view that journalism is more than just a profession. It is a public good, vital to our democracy.”

Reverence for the man and his contribution to our society as the most trusted man in America abounded throughout the ceremony, but there was also the revelation that Walter aspired to be a good drummer... He was a follower and friend of Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead and practiced drumming with him with the aspiration of “being in the groove.” Who Knew?

Kapuściński Symposium: (Continued From Page 1)

and *Columbia Journalism Review*. Appearing on the third panel is **Klara Glowczewska**, Editor in Chief of *Condé Nast Traveler* and translator of three of Kapuściński's books.

There is no need to RSVP. Admission is free and is on a first-come, first-in basis at NYU's Hemmerdinger Hall located at 100 Washington Square East.

The schedule is as follows:

Panel I on Tuesday, October 6 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Art of Reportage: On the Ground and on the Page
Jane Ciabattari, Moderator of a panel which includes Joshua Clark, Eliza Griswold, Arif Jamal, Elizabeth Rubin and Pawel Smolenski
Followed by a Reception

Panel II on Tuesday, October 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Literary Reportage Between Self and Other, Fact and Fiction
Lawrence Weschler, Moderator, with panelists Alastair Reid, Wojciech Jagielski, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc and Suketu Mehta.

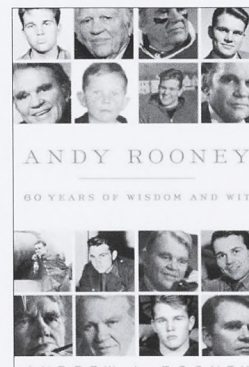
Panel III on Wednesday, October 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kapuściński's Legacy in the 21st Century
Robert S. Boynton, Moderator, with panelists Anna Bikont, Ted Conover, Klara Glowczewska and Philip Gourevitch
Followed by a Reception.

New Books: (Continued From Page 12)

NORTH AMERICA

ANDY ROONEY IS A VERY FUNNY MAN, maybe the only truly funny man on television.” That’s what **Russell Baker**, author and former *New York Times* columnist, wrote in a blurb promoting *Andy Rooney: 60 Years of Wisdom and Wit* [New York: PublicAffairs]. In his latest book, OPC member **Andrew A. Rooney** collects the gems he has written and broadcast over six decades including long-out-of-print pieces from his early years. Here’s one: “It’s just amazing how this country has been going to hell without ever having got there.” At 90, Rooney continues writing his syndicated newspaper column and on “60 Minutes” each Sunday he comments on the facts of life with a grain of truth and humor. The late OPC member **Walter Cronkite** wrote, “Andy Rooney is Everyman, articulating all the frustrations with modern life that the rest of us Everymen (and Everywomen) suffer with silence or mumbled oaths.”

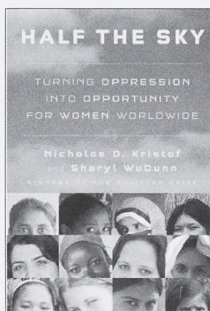


— by Al Kaff

New Books

GLOBAL

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WERE great months for OPC member **Nicholas D. Kristof** and **Sheryl WuDunn**. Their latest book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* [New York: Knopf] was published. An essay based on that book was the cover article in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*. And they received the 2009 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement for their extensive work chronicling human rights in Asia, Africa and the developing world. Now the parents of three children, Nick and Sheryl are the first married couple to win a Pulitzer Prize. They won for their coverage of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests when they were *New York Times* correspondents in Beijing. Nick now travels the world as a *Times* op-ed columnist. Sheryl, a former *Times* TV newscaster, business editor and correspondent with her husband in China and Japan, now works in finance and philanthropy. The authors write about women and chil-



dren in Africa and Asia who are sold into sex slavery, endure genital cutting, suffer injuries in childbirth, are burned for an inadequate dowry and unmarried women can be killed by relatives over suspicion of sleeping with a man. "The heart of this book is the reporting we undertook over many years in Asia, Africa, and Latin America," the authors wrote.

In their *Times Sunday Magazine* piece, Kristof and WuDunn wrote: "In the 19th century, the paramount moral challenge was slavery. In the 20th century, it was totalitarianism. In this century, it is the brutality inflicted on so many women and girls around the globe: sex trafficking, acid attacks, bride burnings and mass rape."

"Yet if the injustices that women in poor countries suffer are of paramount importance, in an economic and geopolitical sense the opportunity they represent is even greater. 'Women hold up half the sky,' in the words of a Chinese saying, yet that's mostly an aspiration: in a large slice of the world, girls are uneducated and women marginalized, and it's not an accident that those same countries are disproportionately mired in poverty and driven by fundamentalism and chaos."

"There's a growing recognition among everyone from the World Bank to the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff to aid organizations like CARE that focusing on women and girls is the most effective way to fight global poverty... That's why foreign aid is increasingly directed to women. The world is awakening to a powerful truth: Women and girls aren't the problem; they're the solution."

In their book, the authors list four



Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

steps readers can take in the next 10 minutes to help women in distress:

1. Go to www.globalgiving.org or www.kiva.org and open an account. Both sites are people-to-people, meaning that they link you directly to a person in need overseas. Or try a third site, www.givology.com, started by University of Pennsylvania students to help children in developing countries pay for primary school.
2. Sponsor a girl or a woman through Plan International, Women for Women International, World Vision, or Jewish World Service.
3. Sign up for e-mail updates on www.womensenews.org and a similar service www.worldpulse.com. Both distribute information about abuses of women and sometimes advise on actions that readers can take.
4. Join the CARE Action Network at www.can.care.org. This will enable you in speaking out, educating policy makers, and underscoring that the public wants action against poverty and injustice."

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

**After Kapuściński:
Literary Reportage
In the 21st Century**
October 6 and 7

See page 11 for symposium details

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA